

From: Perl Hacker
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 4:45pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Sir:

I do not agree with the proposed Microsoft settlement. It does not address any of the issues at hand in a significant fashion. Letting the current settlement stand amounts to nothing less than complete capitulation on the part of the government.

Once, there was a vibrant, competitive desktop software industry. Now, the desktop is dead and stagnant. People are, for the most part, forced to use Microsoft's substandard crapware because the great MS used their monopoly to crush anyone else writing software for the desktop. They did it with Netscape, with Wordstar, with a thousand other apps they thought might threaten their profits. The desktop is dead because Microsoft likes it that way.

Now you're probably being deluged with jerks writing on the behest of Sun or Microsoft, saying that they're Writing Out of Civic Concern (while their manager prods them on).

I am not writing for either of those reasons. I am writing you because I am Damn Well Pissed Off. I am angry because my mother reboots her PC three times a day in order to do her accounting practice, and it doesn't occur to her to find something better or get something better because theres NOTHING ELSE. I am angry because Microsoft is the sole Ma Bell in a country that cant have an MCI or a Supra Telecom or a Sprint because Ma Bell owns all the copper wires, all the terminals, and all the equipment attached to it, and buries anyone who tries to introduce a competing product with its monopoly power. I am angry because whenever someone comes up with a Windows-compatible operating system, Microsoft sues them, and the government complacently looks at this blatant anticompetitive behavior and does nothing.

Bill Gates said it himself - "better doesn't matter." Dont let Microsoft get away with this crap. Read Dan Kegel's open letter here:

<http://www.kegel.com/remedy/letter.html>

and learn why Microsoft does not deserve your pity.

Jeff Craton
Systems Administrator